

# Magdalen Gates News

Friday 30th January 2026

**Dear parents, carers, families and children,**

It has been another positive and purposeful week across the school, with the children showing real enthusiasm for their learning. I have been especially pleased to see the focus on developing key skills in maths and writing, alongside creative work in art and opportunities for pupils to share their ideas and contribute through School Parliament.

In assembly this week, we talked about kindness and how small actions can make a big difference. We watched a short clip from *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, which prompted thoughtful discussion about being kind to others and to ourselves. If you would like to watch the clip together at home, you can find it here:

[https://youtu.be/YLP9C4yn4C0?si=5DXJXi6CmbuQz\\_3Y](https://youtu.be/YLP9C4yn4C0?si=5DXJXi6CmbuQz_3Y)

I wish you all a restful weekend.

**Dhinasha Balachandre**

## Attendance

Good attendance is very important for learning and helps children to make the most of every opportunity at school.

The attendance winners for the last two weeks are

**Year 1 last week with 100 %**

and **Year 1 again this week with 99 %**

Well done!

## Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Leads monitor and manage all safeguarding practices. They also ensure that staff are supported and receive the training they need. Please speak to one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school:

- **Miss Dhinasha Balachandre** – Headteacher
- **Mrs Chloe Demeuzois** – Deputy Headteacher
- **Mrs Emma Kingston** – Year 3 Teacher and KS2 Lead
- **Mrs Karen Orford** – School Secretary and Extended School Hours Manager
- **Mrs Carrie Brown** – Parent Support Advisor

**If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:**

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020

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## February Half Term Holiday Club

Our Holiday Club will be running for three days during February half term:

- Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th February
- 8.15 am – 5.30 pm each day
- Morning and full-day sessions available

Children can look forward to lots of fun activities, including baking, arts and crafts, team games, outdoor play and much more.

Bookings are now live.

Families using Tax-Free Childcare should please email us with the dates required. For more information or to make an enquiry, please contact:

[outofschool@magdalengates.co.uk](mailto:outofschool@magdalengates.co.uk)

## Diary Dates 2025-2026

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	• Olly Day Road Safety Year 3
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	• Year 6 SATS meeting 3:30pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	• End of half term. School finishes at 3:15 pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	• Return to school. New start time begins-8:40 am
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	• Food Discovery (Growing) Year 4
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	• School Reports to go home
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	• Optional Report Based parent conferences-after school
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	• Last day of term

**Swimming** (Parents and carers have been informed of group arrangements)

Monday	Year 2
Friday	Year 5

## Forest School and Mini Nature Explorers

Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6
Friday (weekly, all year round)	Reception

## Reading Breakfast *(weekly, all year round)*


Thursday after drop off	Reception, Year 1 and 2
Thursday after drop off	Year 3 and 4
Thursday after drop off	Year 5 and 6


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## Year 6 SATs Information Meeting

We would like to invite Year 6 parents and carers to a short meeting to explain what the statutory assessments in May 2026 involve and how we support children to approach them confidently and calmly.

 Thursday 12th February 2026

 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

## Norwich Science Festival

Families may be interested in the Norwich Science Festival, which takes place during February half term. The festival offers a wide range of fun, hands-on activities and events designed to spark curiosity and a love of science for all ages.

Find out more here:

<https://norwichsciencefestival.co.uk/>

## Mobile Phones

As part of our safeguarding arrangements, we operate a phone-free school site to help keep all children safe. Children who bring a mobile phone to school are asked to hand it in to the school office on arrival, where it will be signed in and kept securely during the school day. Phones can be collected from the office at the end of the day.

Mobile phones should not be used anywhere on the school site. They should be switched off before entering the school grounds and only turned back on once children have left the site.

To support safeguarding and protect children's privacy, parents, carers and visitors are also asked not to use mobile phones on the school site. Where needed, staff may politely ask that phones are put away.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming school environment.

## Volunteers

We have had some kind offers from parent volunteers to support us with painting the pencil railings once the weather improves. If you would be interested in helping with this, please let Miss Balachandre, Mrs Demeuzois or Paul Wilson know.

Thank you for your continued support.  
It is very much appreciated.

